

INTRAVENOUS ACCESS: ADULT OR PEDIATRIC

INDICATIONS:

Need for intravenous (IV) access in an adult or pediatric patient when it is necessary or potentially necessary to:

- Administer IV medications.
- Administer IV solutions.

EQUIPMENT:

- Tape.
- Alcohol wipes.
- Tourniquet.
- Appropriate over-the-needle catheters or winged infusion needle.
- IV solution.
- IV administration set.

PROCEDURE:

- Select IV site:
 - May use hands or arms.
 - Use the antecubital fossa if emergent need for IV access.
 - The external jugular vein may **only** be used when unable to start IV in an extremity and the patient is in critical need of intravenous therapy, e.g. hypovolemic shock, cardiac arrest.
- Apply tourniquet and select suitable vein.
- Cleanse venipuncture site with alcohol or betadine.
- Insert needle and catheter into vein.
- Advance catheter into vein.
- Place one finger firmly on the vein just above the end of the catheter to occlude venous flow, hold catheter in place and remove needle.
- Attach IV administration set, remove tourniquet.
- Turn on IV, regulate flow.
- Secure IV site.
- Monitor for extravasation of IV fluid.

DOCUMENTATION:

- Time IV access established.
- IV fluid.
- Gauge.
- Site.
- Rate.
- Total fluid intake.
- Number of IV attempts.

NOTES:

- **Prior to inserting winged infusion needle:**
 - **Connect IV administration set to winged infusion needle tubing.**
 - **Flush tubing with IV fluid and clamp IV administration set.**
 - **Establish IV access.**

Approved:

TxGuide98:procdrs
Implementation Date:7/1/95